

Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General



2006 Evaluation of the DoD Voting Assistance Program (General Observations) Report No. IE-2007-004

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Requirement

- **10 U.S.C. 1566**
 - **DoDIG**
 - Conduct periodic (annual) assessments of compliance & effectiveness
 - Requirement eliminated under Sec 583a FY07 NDAA
 - Reporting requirement remains
 - **Service IGs shall conduct**
 - Annual review of effectiveness
 - Annual review of compliance
 - Submit report on results to DoDIG
 -
- **DoDD 1000.4**
 - Provides programmatic guidance & requirements



2006 Scope

Assess FVAP at 10 DoD Installations:

- Interviewed Installation Voting Assistance Officers (7) and Unit Voting Assistance Officers (20)
- Web-based survey of active duty personnel and eligible dependents at inspected installations.
- 20% of installation assigned personnel invited to participate in survey - 22 questions;
- All installation survey submissions received 2106 Valid responses = 8.2% response rate



2006 Observations

- Installations with senior civilian IVAO generally have most effective programs
- Easy/direct internet accessibility to voting information is problematic for Army/Navy, good for Air Force/Marine Corps
- Knowledge/Use of FVAP Website by VAOs = good;
- Volunteers (VAOs) generally have more compliant, and by extension more effective programs than appointees
- Designation of single 'well-advertised' site for voting information inconsistent
- FVAP Workshop attendees had significantly more compliant programs and were more knowledgeable than non-attendees



Summary - 2006

- Observations during FY 06 site visits similar to FY 05
- Sites with more compliant/effective programs maximized use of mass electronic dissemination methods and took advantage of existing training evolutions to get word out
- Command and individual VAO interest key to successful program;
- DODD 1000.4 rqmt (5.2.1.5.3) to deliver FPCA in-hand perceived as administrative burden, resulting in minimal compliance;
- Training/information programs (voter level) inconsistent



Observations – Service IG Reports

- All Service IG reports received after 31 Jan statutory deadline
- None of the reports provided specific reference to both compliance & effectiveness
 - Some addressed compliance
 - Some addressed effectiveness



2007 Report

- **DoDIG still has requirement to submit report to Congress**
- **DoDIG report will be based solely on Service IG reports**
 - **A summary and analysis of submissions**
- **DoDIG recommendations may be directed to the Services rather than USD (P&R) /FVAP Program Office as in the past**



Questions

Evaluation of the DoD Voting Assistance Program



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